

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-05 MCT-01 ACDA-07 SAJ-01 OMB-01 CU-02  
CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01  
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R 130825Z JAN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3012  
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMCONSUL MUNICH  
DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L 0519

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PINS, SHUM, UR  
SUBJECT: PRAVDA SOURCE ON BOMBING, DISSIDENTS AND JEWISH EMIGRATION

REF: MOSCOW 0416

1. SUMMARY. LA TIMES CORRESPONDENT TOTH SAYS PRAVDA SOURCE TOLD HIM JAN 12 THAT SOVIET AUTHROITIES ARE SATISFIED THAT METRO BOMB WAS HOMEMADE DOMESTIC DEVICE SET BY "KIDS OR CRAZIES" AND THAT DISSIDENTS HAD NO PART IN BOMBING, SO THAT LINKAGE PROMOTED BY "FREAKS" LIKE VIKTOR LOUIS CAN BE IGNORED: NO CRACKDOWN ON DISSIDENTS IN WAKE OF BOMBING WILL TAKE PLACE. SOURCE ALSO CLAIMED THAT JEWISH EMIGRATION WILL BE "NO PROBLEM" IN U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS SINCE MAJOR REFUSENIKS WILL PROBABLY BE PERMITTED TO DEPART THIS YEAR; MOVEMENT "COULD BE SEEN" IN BELGRADE CSCE CONTEXT. SOVIETS APPEAR TO BE MOVING FAST TO SQUELCH RUMORS OF CRACKDOWN ON DISSIDENTS FOLLOWING BOMBING; THEY MAY ALSO BE MOVING, IF MORE SLOWLY, TO DEFUSE BELGRADE BY RELEASING PROMINENT REFUSENIKS. END SUMMARY.

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2. PRAVDA CONTACT (NOT FURTHER IDENTIFIED) OF LA TIMES MOSCOW CORRESPONDENT BOB TOTH SAID FOLLOWING ABOUT BOMBING, DISSIDENT INVOLVEMENT AND JEWISH EMIGRATION JAN 12.

3. METRO BOMB WAS HOMEMADE, AND WENT OFF INSIDE

TRAIN, BLOWING WINDOWS OUT. FIVE PEOPLE WERE KILLED, AND AT LEAST TWELVE MORE INJURED.

4. THIS HAS BEEN THE ONLY BOMBING, TOTH'S PRAVDA MAN SAID, AND TOTH ADDED THAT HE HIMSELF HAD CHECKED ALL THE RUMORS OF OTHERS HE COULD, AND CAME UP WITH NOTHING. RUMORS INCLUDED EXPLOSIONS IN TWO SHOPS IN CENTER CITY, AND ONE AT MOSCOW CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT STORE. HE HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH VIKTOR LOUIS, WHO TOLD HIM HE HAD ALSO HEARD RUMOR ABOUT CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT STORE AND HAD BEEN THERE "TWO OR THREE TIMES" WITH NO RESULTS. (NOTE: CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT STORE DETSKIY MIR IS NEAR KGB HEADQUARTERS.)

5. BOMB WAS NOT ONLY HOMEMADE BUT OF DOMESTIC AND NOT FOREIGN MANUFACTURE, TOTH'S PRAVDA MAN HAD CONTINUED, AND ALTHOUGH AUTHORITIES HAD THOUGHT OF DISSIDENTS THEY HAD COME TO FIRM CONCLUSION THAT PERPETRATOR OR PERPETRATORS WERE EITHER KIDS OR CRAZY. DISSIDENTS HAD NO INTEREST IN RESORTING TO SUCH METHODS, FOR FEAR OF PROVOKING A GENERAL CRACKDOWN, AND IF THEY HAD THEY WOULD HAVE CHOSEN MORE ADVANTAGEOUS OCCASION OF "WORLD FORUM OF PEACE-LOVING FORCES" JAN 14. THERE ARE ALWAYS A FEW FREAKS INCLINED TO MAKE THE CONNECTION, TOTH'S SOURCE SAID WITH CLEAR REFERENCE TO VIKTOR LOUIS, BUT THEY SHOULD BE IGNORED.

6. THERE WILL ALSO BE NO CRACKDOWN ON DISSIDENTS IN THE WAKE OF THE BOMBING, TOTH'S MAN CONCLUDED FIRMLY. CONFIDENTIAL

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7. AT ANOTHER POINT IN THE DISCUSSION, ON PROSPECTS IN U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS FOR 1977, TOTH'S SOURCE HAD AFFIRMED THAT JEWISH EMIGRATION WOULD BE "NO PROBLEM," AND THAT "YOU WILL PROBABLY SEE MOST OF THE MAJOR REFUSENIKS LEAVE IN THE COURSE OF THE YEAR." TOTH SAID HIS SOURCE HAD REJECTED ANY LINKAGE TO ARMS CONTROL NEGOTIATIONS OR THE TRADE BILL, BUT HAD FINALLY ADMITTED THAT DEPARTURES "COULD BE SEEN" IN CONTEXT OF BELGRADE CSCE MEETING.

8. COMMENT. SOVIETS ARE EVIDENTLY MOVING FAST TO SQUELCH RUMORS PROVOKED BY LOUIS ARTICLE THAT AUTHORITIES WILL SEIZE OCCASION OF BOMBING TO INSTITUTE GENERAL CRACKDOWN ON DISSIDENT COMMUNITY. OFFICIAL SOURCES PRESUMABLY FIND IT EXPEDIENT TO DOWNPLAY EXTENT OF BOMB THREAT. REMARKS ON JEWISH EMIGRATION ALSO SUGGEST SOVIETS HAVE IMPACT OF ISSUE ON WESTERN OPINION VERY MUCH IN MIND, AND THAT PLANS

TO DEFUSE BELGRADE MEETINGS BY DEMONSTRATIVE RELEASE OF  
MAJOR REFUSENIKS MAY BE AFOOT. TOTH SAID REFERENCES  
WERE TO JEWISH REFUSENIKS ONLY, AND THAT HE HAD NOT  
RAISED MORE GENERAL ISSUE OF SWAPPING DISSIDENTS FOR  
IMPRISONED FOREIGN COMMUNIST MARTYRS. HE DID NOT  
SAY HOW HE INTENDED TO USE PRAVDA SOURCE'S COMMENTS IN  
REPORTING  
TOON

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## Message Attributes

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